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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE SITE OF OLD "JAMES TOWNE," 1607-1698. A Brief Historical and Topographical Sketch of the First American Metropolis. Illustrated with Original Maps, Drawings and Photographs. By Samuel H. Yonge. "Redivivum est ex vetusto renovatum."—Festus. Tercentenary Edition. The Hermitage Press, Inc., 1907, pp. 151, with 17 maps and illustrations.

Mr. Yonge's notable book, considerably enlarged, now appears in what is practically a third edition. Its importance as a contribution to Virginia history and antiquities was recognized as soon as it made its appearance.

Prior to the publication of the results of the author's investigations there was practically no information in regard to the topography and history of old Jamestown. The total destruction of the county records precluded reference to deeds, etc., which might have thrown light on the old capital, and none of the early printed accounts gave any description minute enough to be of real value. Various writers in the 19th century placed the site of the town west of the church, and therefore declared that most of it was under water. Even such a careful student as Mr. Tyler in the first edition of "The Cradle of the Republic," though he had made a personal examination on the spot, fell into the same error.

Mr. Yonge, while designing and erecting the splendid sea-wall, which now protects the island from destruction by the river, was much at Jamestown, and had necessarily to make surveys by land and water. As his interest in the site of the first colony grew, he went more carefully into all that had been published in regard to Jamestown, and at leisure hours copied and plotted many old land grants for tracts on the island. After many months of laborious work, with nights given up to the study, he at last found a key to the location of the old public buildings, dwellings and other structures, and was, to a great extent, able to reconstruct the old town. Even the site of the first landing place was ascertained. To Americans the story of how these discoveries were made is even more fascinating than that of Pompeii. The work could only have been accomplished by one who had the rare combination of skilled engineer and ardent and studious antiquary.

"The Site of Old "James Towne" contains, however, far more than

an account of Mr. Yonge's work there. It gives full accounts, as complete and accurate as can now be made, of the old capital, with its public and private buildings, and their respective histories. To this has been added in the present edition a concise, but carefully prepared, history of Jamestown, or rather of Virginia, during the seventeenth century. The author does not depend on second-hand authorities, but goes straight to the original sources where they exist.

The work is divided into chapters which, after an introduction stating what was in print about Jamestown, treat of the "Description of the Island," "Abrasion of the Island," "Landing of the First Settlers," "Location of the First Fort and Town," "Location of the Block Houses," "Description of the Town," "Population of the Town and Colony," "Sufferings of the Early Colonists," "The New Towne," "West End of the Town," "Church Buildings and Original Graveyard," "The Colonial Legislature," "James City State Houses," "The Turf and Brick Forts," "Historical Summary of the Jamestown Period," "The English and Virginians of the Seventeenth Century," an appendix, showing methods of investigation pursued, and a note on the "Ambler MSS," which are certain old Jamestown deeds and plats purchased from a private individual by the Library of Congress after Mr. Yonge's book had been written, and which confirm his conclusions in a remarkable way.

There are a carefully prepared map showing the old town between 1607-1698, photographs of old foundations, the tower, etc., a plan of the State House (discovered and identified by Mr. Yonge) and several portraits from old engravings of persons prominently connected with the settlement of Virginia. The book is handsomely printed and bound, and is, most appropriately dedicated to Mrs. Joseph Bryan, the President of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The Association, it may be added, has placed close to the State House foundations a tablet expressing its gratitude to Mr. Yonge, as the designer of the sea-wall, the discoverer of the old State House and the author of the book now treated of.

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HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN INDIAN: NORTH OF MEXICO. Edited by Frederick Webb Hodge. In two parts. Part I. Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology. Bulletin 30. Washington. Government Printing Office, 1907, pp. ix, 978, with map and many illustrations.

The Bureau of American Ethnology has now published the first volume of this most valuable work, which many members of its staff